



February 21, 2023

From: SMD/ Director, Astrophysics Division

RE: Appointment of new members of the Physics of the Cosmos Program Analysis Group (PhysPAG) Executive Committee (EC)

Background:

As stated in the PhysPAG Terms of Reference, the nominal term of the PhysPAG Executive Committee (EC) members is three years. Four members of the PhysPAG EC were scheduled to rotate off in December 2022. The remaining members of the EC have terms expiring after December 2022 (see Table 3). Accordingly, new members of the PhysPAG EC need to be appointed for terms starting in February 2023 - 2 months later than usual owing to recruitment efforts at AAS meeting this year to reach deeper into the community - and ending in December 2025.

On November 4, 2022, NASA HQ issued a “Dear Colleague” letter to the U.S. community seeking expressions of interest in joining the PhysPAG EC. The deadline for nominations to the PhysPAG EC was December 9, 2022, which was subsequently extended to January 20, 2023.

Criteria for Selection:

The following criteria and considerations were adopted for selection of the EC nominees:

1. New members of the PhysPAG EC should be recognized experts in fields pertinent to the Physics of the Cosmos Program’s science and technology objectives and should have demonstrated ability to lead studies or interest groups in the areas central to this theme;
2. Balance among the primary PhysCOS science disciplines (e.g., Particle Astrophysics, Gamma-ray Astrophysics, X-ray Astrophysics, Gravitational Wave Astrophysics, CMB, and Dark Energy);
3. Anticipation of the new Science Interest Group (SIG) on Time Domain and Multi-Messenger Astrophysics (TDAMM) which has been put forward by existing EC members and recommended by the APAC and which will benefit from an increase in the number of EC members from 12 to 14; and
4. Broad and diverse representation of the PhysCOS community.

Selections:

I am appointing the individuals listed in Table 1 to serve as PhysPAG EC members with terms to start in February 2023 and end in December 2025. In addition, I am extending the term of Dr. Grant Tremblay, as well as appointing him as PhysPAG EC Chair Emeritus (Table 2).

I hereby appoint Dr. Justin Finke as PhysPAG EC Chair and appoint Dr. Athina Meli as PhysPAG EC Vice Chair.

The final composition of the PhysPAG EC is presented in Table 3, with PhysPAG EC members serving as chairs of the standing Science Interest Groups (SIGs) based on their expertise, presented in Table 3.

Note: The key to the expertise of each EC member is provided in the Appendix to this memorandum.

Table 1: New members of the PhysPAG EC

Name	Institution	Expertise	End
Chien-Ting Chen	USRA	XR SIG	Dec-25
Alessandra Corsi	Texas Tech University	GW SIG	Dec-25
Manel Errando	Washington University	GR SIG	Dec-25
Rebekah Hounsell	UMBC	CoS SIG	Dec-25
Chiara Mingarelli	University of Connecticut	GW SIG	Dec-25
Roger O'Brient	JPL	IP SIG	Dec-25

Table 2: Current member with one-year extension to their term

Name	Institution	Expertise
Grant Tremblay	SAO	XR SIG

Table 3: Resulting PhysPAG EC membership

Name	Institution	Expertise	End
Grant Tremblay (Past Chair)	SAO	XR SIG	Dec-23
Justin Finke (Chair)	NRL	GR SIG	Dec-23
Vera Gluscevic	Univ. of Southern California	CoS SIG	Dec-23
Andres Romero-Wolf	JPL	CR SIG	Dec-23
David Pooley	Trinity Univ.	XR SIG	Dec-24
Athina Meli (Vice Chair)	North Carolina A&T	CR SIG	Dec-24
Eric Burns	Louisiana State Univ.	TDAMM SIG	Dec-24
Kristin Madsen	UMBC - GSFC	XR SIG	Dec-24
Chiara Mingarelli	Univ. of Connecticut	GW SIG	Dec-25
Chien-Ting Chen	USRA - MSFC	XR SIG	Dec-25
Alessandra Corsi	Texas Tech	GW SIG	Dec-25

Roger O'Brient	JPL	IP SIG	Dec-25
Rebekah Hounsell	UMBC - GSFC	CoS SIG	Dec-25
Manel Errando	Washington U	GR SIG	Dec-25

for Mark Clampin
 Director, Astrophysics Division
 Science Mission Directorate

Appendix: PhysPAG Science Interest Groups

- CoS SIG Cosmic Structure Science Interest Group
- CR SIG Cosmic Ray Science Interest Group
- GW SIG Gravitational Wave Science Interest Group
- IP SIG Inflation Probe Science Interest Group
- XR SIG X-ray Science Interest Group
- GR SIG Gamma-ray Science Interest Group

- TDAMM SIG Time-Domain and Multi-Messenger Astronomy
 Science Interest Group (in formation)

Ref: <https://pcos.gsfc.nasa.gov/physpag/physpag-sigs.php>